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TELEGRAM

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ACTION: NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 : ADP-00 CIAE-00.. DQDE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-13 NIC-01 EA-11 ACDA-19

RSR-01 /172 W

• 126627

R 190630Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 131
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 5839

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF
SUBJ: AFGHAN COUP: GOP VIEWS
REF: ISLAMABAD 5813✓

SUMMARY: STATES THAT GOP INTENDS KEEP "OPEN MIND" RE DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN. GOP STILL OUT OF TOUCH WITH PAK EMBASSY IN KABUL. INITIAL EDITORIAL COMMENT IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS EXPRESSES HOPE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WILL RESIST TEMPTATION EXPLOIT PUSHTUNISTAN. END SUMMARY.

1. DISCUSSING AFGHAN COUP,
TOLD POL COUNSELOR EVENING JULY 18 THAT GOP WAS
NATURALLY CONCERNED WITH SARDAR DAUD'S SEIZURE OF POWER
BUT INTENDED TO KEEP AN "OPEN MIND" WITH REGARD
DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN. GOP HAD CONFINED SELF
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TO RESTRAINED PUBLIC STATEMENT ON COUP, HE SAID, AND HAD PASSED WORD TO PRESS THAT IT SHOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN REPORTING AFGHAN NEWS. [] DECLINED SPECULATE ON IMPLICATIONS OF COUP FOR PAKISTAN, OBSERVING THAT GOP FELT IT BEST AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS RATHER THAN LEAPING TO CONCLUSIONS.

2. [] EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR INFO EMBASSY HAD PASSED TO MFA REGARDING AFGHAN DEVELOPMENTS (ISLAMABAD 5809), SAYING THAT IT WAS VIRTUALLY ONLY FIRST-HAND NEWS GOP HAD RECEIVED DURING EARLY STAGES OF COUP. HE EXPLAINED THAT PAK EMBASSY IN KABUL

HAD RELIED ON TELEPHONE AND COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPH FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH ISLAMABAD. WITH LATTER FACILITIES STILL NOT FUNCTIONING, MFA REMAINED CUT OFF FROM ITS KABUL EMBASSY.

3. COUP STORY WAS HEADLINED IN LOCAL PRESS JULY 18 AND 19, EXCEPT FOR JANG ITEM (ISLAMABAD 5809) AND ONE OR TWO OTHER SENSATIONAL STORIES IN NON-GOVERNMENT PAPERS, PRESS HAS CONFINED SELF TO RELATIVELY RESTRAINED FACTUAL REPORTING.

4. INITIAL EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES JULY 19 STRUCK SOMBER NOTE. IT OBSERVED THAT COUP RAISED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS, INCLUDING MOTIVATION OF PLOTTERS, PART PLAYED BY EXTERNAL FACTORS IF ANY, AND REASON WHY PRIVILEGED HITHERTO NON-POLITICAL ARMY HAD INJECTED SELF INTO POLITICS. EDITORIAL SAID THAT NEW AFGHAN RULERS WILL NEED A "LOT OF LUCK" TO RUN COUNTRY IN VIEW OF STRONG TRIBAL LOYALTIES AND ELIMINATION OF THRONE AS UNIFYING FACTOR. AFGHANISTAN'S NEIGHBORS WOULD BE WATCHING CAREFULLY TO SEE HOW NEW GOVERNMENT'S AVOWED POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT WAS TO BE APPLIED, PAPER SAID. "NOTHING WOULD BE MORE DISTURBING THAN THAT THIS COUNTRY SHOULD BECOME THE COCKPIT OF BIG-POWER CONFLICT OR FALL UNDER THE POWER PENUMBRA OF ANY GREAT POWER. THIS WOULD BE A NEGATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE VALIANT, SELF-RESPECTING AFGHANS".

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5. CONCLUDING, EDITORIAL EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT SARDAR DAUD INCLUDED "UNCOMPLIMENTARY" REFERENCE TO PAKISTAN IN HIS FIRST BROADCAST. FACT WAS, PAPER ASSERTED, THAT PAKISTAN HAD NO POLITICAL DISPUTE WITH AFGHANISTAN SINCE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSI WAS BURIED IN 1963. "WE HOPE THAT THE NEW RULERS WILL RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO RAISE THE 'ISSUE' AGAIN, HOWEVER MUCH THEY MIGHT NEED SOMETHING HANDY TO DIVERT CRITICAL PUBLIC OPINION AT HOME". EDITORIAL ENDED WITH SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE IN AFGHANISTAN'S OWN NATIONAL INTEREST TO FORGE CLOSER REALATIONS WITH PAKISTAN "IN KEEPING WITH THE DICTATES OF REGIONAL PEACE AND FREEDOM FROM FOREIGN HEGEMONY".

6. IN OTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT, PRO-GOVERNMENT URDU LANGUAGE TAMEER JULY 18 EXPRESSAR PLEASURE OVER ABOLITION OF MONARCHY IN AFGHANISTAN BUT WORRIED THAT EMERGENCE OF SARDAR DAUD AS LEADER OF REVOLUTION MIGHT INDICATE ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY EXTREME PRO-RUSSIAN ELEMENTS. INDEPENDENT URDU LANGUAGE JANG EXPRESSED HOPE FOR PROSPERITY OF AFGHAN PEOPLE UNDER NEW REGIME. URGED NEW RULERS TO DO AWAY WITH MARTIAL LAW SOON AS POSSIBLE AND BEGIN INTRODUCING DEMOCRACY. PAPER SUGGESTED GOP EXPLORE AVENUES FOR COOPERATION WITH NEW REGIME, ESPECIALLY IN ECONOMIC FIELD.
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PAO AID/D CHRON

Classification

R 190630Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 131

INFO RUEVLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 3321

RUEVLK/AMCONSUL KARACHI 9357

ZEN/AMCONSUL LAHORE 3123

RUEHFO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 724

RUEBDE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9969

RUEHHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 1925

BT

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TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJ: AFGHAN COUP: GOP VIEWS

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EDITORIAL COMMENT IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS EXPRESSES HOPE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WILL RESIST TEMPTATION EXPLOIT PUSHTUNISTAN. END SUMMARY.

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3. COUP STORY WAS HEADLINED IN LOCAL PRESS JULY 18 AND 19. EXCEPT FOR JANG ITEM (ISLAMABAD 5329) AND ONE OR TWO OTHER SENSATIONAL STORIES IN NON-GOVERNMENT PAPERS, PRESS HAS CONFINED SELF TO RELATIVELY RESTRAINED FACTUAL REPORTING.

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